

REMARKS

Election/Restriction:

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's entry of the restriction requirement.

In the Claims:

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner cancel claims 1-20 without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue these claims in a related application.

Claims 21, 22, 24, 27 and 31 are pending in this application. New claims 34-40 have been added herein. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In this paper, Applicants have amended Claims 21 and 31 to accurately claim the invention described in the specification and the figures. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment to Claims 21 and 31 may be found throughout the specification and in paragraphs 198-206.

Applicants have added new dependent claims 34-40. No new matter has been added. Support for the newly added claims may be found throughout the specification and in the figures.

Claim rejections under 35 USC § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 21, 22, 24, 27 and 31 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chuter (U.S. Patent No. 6,849,087). The Examiner stated that Chuter discloses at Figures 7b and 16 an endoluminal prosthesis comprising a cannular body having a stent comprising integral barbs adjacent a proximal end of the prosthesis.

Claims 21 and 31 have been amended to require that the barbs of a stent are pointed in a predetermined direction by orienting the stent segment in a step prior to forming the stent segment into the final stent shape. This process may eliminate or reduce the strains that could be induced in the stent when the barbs are bent relative to the stent segment or final stent shape. In contrast, Chuter shows barbs that were pointed in their ultimate direction by bending (Chuter, Figure 7b). As such, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection based on Chuter.

Thus, Applicants assert that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Chuter. Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 21, 22, 24, 27 and 31 under 35 USC §102(e) be withdrawn. Claims 22-24, 26, 27, and 34-35 depend directly or

indirectly from newly amended claim 21. Claims 36-40 depend directly or indirectly from newly amended claim 31. Applicants assert that the newly amended claims 21 and 31, and the claims that depend from them are in condition for allowance. Early notification to such effect is earnestly solicited.

SUMMARY

Claims 21 and 31 as amended are patentable, as are the claims that depend from them, including new claims 34-40. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samuel E. Shehadeh', written over a horizontal line.

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